

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LAGOS

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 190486

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NI, US

SUBJECT: MEETING WITH NIGERIAN AMBASSADOR

1. AF/W DIRECTOR SAW NIGERIAN AMBASSADOR SANU AND DCM OBE AT THEIR REQUEST JULY 27 TO DISCUSS VISIT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMISSIONER GARBA TO WASHINGTON JULY 30.

2. PROUTY CASE: SANU BEGAN BY RAISING THE PROUTY CASE (SEPTTEL).

3. DIPLOMATIC TRAVEL BAN: WE THANKED SANU FOR HIS EMBASSY'S EFFORTS ON BEHALF OF KOTT, THE NEW MEMBER OF THE NIGERIAN DESK, WHO WAS GIVEN PERMISSION FOR FAMILIARIZATION TRAVEL IN NIGERIA. SANU REPLIED THAT HE THOUGHT THE BAN WOULD SOON BE LIFTED. HE SAID TRAVEL BY US PERSONNEL TO US INSTALLATIONS, SUCH AS IBADAN AND KADUNA CONSULTATES,

AND TO SPECIFIC PROJECTS IN WHICH THE US HAD AN INTEREST, WERE POSSIBLE UNDER PRESENT REGULATIONS. HE REPORTED THAT HE HAD PRESSED HARD IN LAGOS FOR THE ABOLITION OF THESE RESTRICTIONS AND SAID HE THOUGHT THEY WERE BEING CONTINUED ONLY UNTIL THE NEW SECURITY ORGANIZATION WAS COMPLETED AND FUNCTIONING SMOOTHLY. HE COMMENTED THAT THE EMBASSY IN
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WASHINGTON HAD OFTEN GONE OUT OF ITS WAY TO ASSIST

SPECIFIC US INTERESTS AND MAY HAVE DAMAGED ITS CREDIBILITY IN LAGOS BECAUSE OF ITS EFFORTS ON BEHALF OF THE US.

4. GARBA VISIT: WE ASKED WHAT ISSUES COMMISSIONER GARBA MIGHT RAISE IN WASHINGTON. SANU SAID THAT HE KNEW ONLY THAT THE COMMISSIONER HAD SOME BILATERAL ISSUES IN MIND BUT THAT HE DID NOT KNOW WHICH ONES. WE SAID THERE WERE TWO ASPECTS OF NIGERIAN POLICY WHICH MIGHT AFFECT US INTERESTS, INDIGENIZATION AND LIMITS ON OIL COMPANY PROFITS. WITH REGARD TO INDIGENIZATION, SANU SAID THAT HE DID NOT BELIEVE THAT ANY US FIRMS WERE DIRECTLY AFFECTED BY INDIGENIZATION. NIGERIA SOUGHT TO OBLIGE LEBANESE AND PARTICULARLY INDIAN EMPLOYERS TO GIVE GREATER SCOPE TO NIGERIANS. WE REPLIED THAT SOME MAJOR AMERICAN INTERESTS COULD BE AFFECTED IN THE NEAR FUTURE. FOR INSTANCE, TWO LARGE AMERICAN FIRMS HAD PLANNED INVESTMENTS IN COSMETICS MANUFACTURING. THESE INVESTMENTS COULD WELL NOW BE CANCELLED AS A RESULT OF THE REQUIREMENT THAT 100 PERCENT OF THIS INDUSTRY BE NIGERIAN OWNED. WE ALSO POINTED OUT THAT BANKS FACED SOME SPECIFIC PROBLEMS STEM-ING FROM THE NATURE OF THE BUSINESS AND THE POLICY OF SPECIFIC BANKS WITH REGARD TO CONTROL OF THEIR SUBSIDIARIES IN OTHER COUNTRIES. WE SAID WE UNDERSTOOD THAT THE NIGERIAN GOVERNMENT WAS APPROACHING THIS PROBLEM PRAG-MATICALLY AND THAT SPECIFIC POINTS MIGHT BE NEGOTIATED OUT. SANU WAS UNABLE TO PROVIDE ANY ADDITIONAL INFOR-MATION REGARDING THE NIGERIAN GOVERNMENT'S POLICY IN THIS REGARD.

5. WITH REGARD TO AFRICAN ISSUES, SANU SAID HE THOUGHT GARBA WAS COMING TO WASHINGTON "BECAUSE IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO DISCUSS AFRICAN POLICY WITHOUT COMING TO WASHINGTON THESE DAYS". HE THOUGHT EAST AFRICA AND SOUTHERN AFRICA WOULD BE THE TWO PROBLEMS GARBA WOULD RAISE. WITH REGARD TO EAST AFRICA, HE SPECULATED THAT GARBA WOULD REQUEST THE US TO SUGGEST TO THE KENYANS THAT THEY REDUCE THEIR PRESSURE ON UGANDA, AND SPECIFICALLY THAT THEY ALLOW UGANDA TO PURCHASE POL ON CREDIT RATHER THAN CASH. WITH REGARD TO SOUTHERN AFRICA, SANU SAID ONLY THAT GARBA

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WOULD WISH TO DISCUSS THE WHOLE RANGE OF SOUTHERN AFRICAN PROBLEMS.

6. WE TOOK OPPORTUNITY TO OUTLINE US VIEWS ON KOREA AND PUERTO RICO QUESTIONS AT NONALIGNED SUMMIT. SANU SAID HE WAS THOROUGHLY FAMILIAR WITH US VIEWS ON BOTH, AND ADDED THAT HE WOULD LIKE TO VISIT PUERTO RICO.

7. SANU EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR THE RAPIDITY FOR WHICH

GARBA'S REQUEST FOR AN APPOINTMENT WITH THE SECRETARY
HAD BEEN GRANTED, AND SAID HE REALIZED HOW DIFFICULT IT
HAD BEEN TO ARRANGE ON SHORT NOTICE.

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